

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 CU-02 AID-05 SAM-01 ACDA-05

IO-10 /088 W

----- 109587

P R 051345Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2840

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: QADHAFI ANNOUNCES STUDENT VIOLENCE IN BENGHAZI
TO NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. QADHAFI ANNOUNCED TO THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS WHICH HAS JUST OPENED THAT VIOLENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING STUDENTS TOOK PLACE IN BENGHAZI YESTERDAY, JANUARY 4. QADHAFI SAID THAT BLOOD HAD BEEN SHED. HE KNEW ABOUT STUDENTS HIMSELF, HAVING BEEN ONE NOT SO LONG AGO, AND HE DID NOT CARE WHAT THEY DID, EVEN IF THERE WERE VICTIMS, ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF. THE SERIOUS THING ABOUT THESE INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THEY HAD SPILLED OVER INTO THE CITY ITSELF. THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO AND PROPERTY DESTROYED. IT WAS A SHAME THAT ON THE EVE OF THE CONGRESS SOME ELEMENTS HAD ACTED IN A WAY WHICH WOULD GIVE FOREIGNERS A BAD IMPRESSION OF LIBYA.

2. COMMENT: ELECTIONS, PRESUMABLY RIGGED, HAVE BEEN HELD TO FORM NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR
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THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, AND THIS MAY BE ONE PROXIMATE

CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE, IN ADDITION TO QADHAFI'S
UNPOPULARITY WITH STUDENTS IN GENERAL AND THOSE IN
BENGHAZI IN PARTICULAR. THE NEWLY ELECTED HEAD OF THE
NATIONAL STUDENT UNION WAS THE ONLY DELEGATE TO
CHALLENGE QADHAFI DURING THE MORNING SESSION
OF THE CONGRESS, PROPOSING THAT THE PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY BE
CHOSED BY THE CONGRESS, RATHER THAN APPOINTED BY QADHAFI.
QADHAFI'S DECISION TO ANNOUNCE THE INCIDENTS HIMSELF IS
PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO PREVENT RUMORS ABOUT THE
INCIDENTS FROM GETTING OUT OF CONTROL, ALTHOUGH HE GAVE
NO DETAILS.
CARLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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